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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/848,243	04/29/1997	MASATOSHI NAGANO	35.C9371-CII	2521

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

WILSON, JACQUELINE B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2612	

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 08/848,243	Applicant(s) Nagano
Examiner Jacqueline Wilson	Art Unit 2612



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 27, 2001

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2612

DETAILED ACTION V

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toda et al. (U.S. 5,047,847).

Art Unit: 2612

Regarding Claim 1, the examiner believes that the claims are written broadly enough to read on fig. 45 of Toda et al.'847. Toda et al.'847 teaches a "physical element" (referred to as an LC iris, fig. 45, element 412), "photoelectric conversion means" for receiving an optical image transmitted through the physical element at a position of an imaging plane and for converting the optical image into an electrical image signal (referred to as a CCD 411), "memory means" for storing correcting information for correcting a change in an optical characteristic of the physical element with respect to a change of the light transmission factor throughout the physical element (col. 30, lines 47-56), and "control means" for performing on the electrical image signal output from the photoelectric conversion means, correction of the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element in accordance with the correcting information read out from the memory means corresponding to the light transmission factor throughout the physical element, and controlling drive of the physical element according to the corrected electrical image signal (elements 437 and 439, col. 30, lines 47-62). The examiner interprets the function of the control means as follows. In fig. 45, correcting information output from the memory means (438) is supplied to the control (432, 437) for correcting the change in the optical characteristic of the physical element (412), and controlling drive of the physical element (439). Each time the correction loop is performed, the signal output from buffer (414) is a corrected electrical image signal which is supplied to the control means (432). Therefore, this reads on the limitation of the control means for controlling drive of the physical element according to the corrected electrical image signal.

Art Unit: 2612

Regarding Claim 2, Toda et al. '847 teaches the correction means adjusts a correction amount of wavelength dependency characteristics of the light transmission factor (col. 29, lines 40-42).

Regarding Claim 3, Toda et al. '847 teaches the correction by the correction means is achieved by auto white-balance control for an output signal from the photoelectric conversion means (col. 29, lines 22-28; col. 29, lines 35-40).

Regarding Claim 4, Toda et al. '847 teaches the correction of the correction means is achieved by changing a sensitivity of the photoelectric conversion means in accordance with a light wavelength (col. 29, lines 20-36).

Regarding Claims 5 and 6, Toda et al. '847 teaches the correction by correction means is achieved by another physical element (filter) capable of controlling a light transmission factor in the photographing optical system (Fig. 56, element 650; col. 37, lines 47-60).

Regarding Claim 7, Toda et al. '847 teaches a correction means comprising a storage means for storing at least one of the light transmission factor wavelength dependency of the physical element and the correction amount of the light transmission factor wavelength dependency of the physical element (referred to as color correcting memory, Fig. 45, element 440; col. 31, lines 3-6).

Regarding Claim 8, Toda et al. '847 teaches the storage means stores at least one of a plurality of light transmission factor wavelength dependencies and a plurality of correction amounts in accordance with at least one of the light transmission factor and the light transmission amount of the physical element (col. 30, lines 47- col. 31, line 12).

Claim 9 is analyzed and discussed with respect to Claim 1. (See rejection of claim 1 above.)

Art Unit: 2612

The exposure amount adjustment means is the white balance correcting means (427).

Claims 10 and 11 are analyzed and discussed with respect to Claim 2. (See rejection of claim 2 above.)

Claim 12 is analyzed and discussed with respect to Claim 1. (See rejection of claim 1 above.)

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2612

6. Any inquiries concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to **Jacqueline Wilson** whose telephone number is (703) 308-5080. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday (alternate Fridays off) from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Wendy Garber**, can be reached at (703) 305-4929. The fax number for this group is (703) 872-9314.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or Faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communication intended for entry)

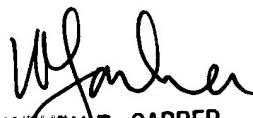
or:

(703) 872-9314, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED"
or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington,
V.A., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

JBW

February 28, 2002


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600